

bvse market report: plastics, December 2024

1 General economy and reference to the plastics industry

INNONENT Kunststoff is a network that published the INNONENT mood barometer twice in 2024, see <https://www.innont-kunststoff.de/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/BAROMETER-FINAL-NOV.pdf>. The 2nd edition of the mood barometer from 10/2024 has the title "Optimism in spite of Challenges". The current mood within the southern German plastics industry is falling simultaneously with the assessment of the current economic situation in Germany, but is slightly higher than this assessment. Expectations for the orders situation are optimistic, however they start from the low value of the current levels. The most relevant problem areas according to the large majority of responses were in the field of the orders situation, staff and the political framework and regulations. Although the image of the sector within society and politics is improving slightly, it remains a challenge. Transparent efforts and increased communication in the area of sustainability are seen as potential here.

2 Primary markets - standard plastics

It's very Christmassy and business is quiet! Quotes for standard plastics are practically unchanged. There is still no impetus on the market at the end of the year. Manufacturers and processors keep as few warehouse stocks as possible at this time of year. Supply is higher than demand – a buyer's market. Due to the holidays, demand for food packagings is higher in December than in previous months.

In November 2024, the EUWID average price was 1,391 €/t, more or less the same as in the previous month (1,394 €/t) see Tab. 2. In a year-on-year comparison, it can be seen that the average quotes from November 2024 (1,391 €/t) were more or less the same as those of the previous year (1,394 €/t). The current market situation for virgin grade standard plastics is portrayed well in EUWID, see www.euwid-recycling.de, and PIE – Plastic Information Europe, see <https://pieweb.plasteurope.com/>.

Table 2: Standard plastics prices according to EUWID over the past five months, listed in €/t.

Prices in €/t	November 2024	Oct. 24	Sept. 2024	Aug. 2024	July 2024
LDPE film grade	1270- 1330	1280- 1350	1310- 1390	1290- 1390	1250- 1350
LLDPE film grade	1240- 1280	1250- 1300	1290- 1350	1290- 1350	1260- 1330
HDPE injection moulding	1260- 1290	1270- 1300	1310- 1340	1310- 1340	1290- 1320
HDPE blow moulding	1260- 1310	1260- 1310	1300- 1350	1300- 1350	1280- 1330
PS crystal clear	1630- 1680	1630- 1680	1830- 1880	1830- 1880	1750- 1880
PS high impact	1760- 1780	1760- 1780	1960- 1980	1960- 1980	1880- 1900
PP homopolymer	1390- 1480	1390- 1480	1420- 1530	1420- 1530	1390- 1510
PP copolymer	1440- 1520	1440- 1530	1470- 1580	1470- 1580	1440- 1560
PVC tube grade	1100- 1210	1100- 1200	1100- 1200	1080- 1180	1070- 1170
PVC film/cables	1240- 1340	1230- 1330	1230- 1330	1210- 1310	1200- 1300
Average Price	1391 ± 192	1394 ± 192	1458 ± 258	1453 ± 263	1423 ± 247

PET: The PET markets are still characterised by excess supply - a buyer's market. Moreover, large quantities of imported goods are also on offer. Demand for PET on the part of processors is astonishingly low. No positive change in the tense situation is expected in the medium term.

In November 2024 packaging PET was quoted on average at 1,110 €/t. And thus 40 €/t lower than in the previous month, see PIE – Plastic Information Europe <https://pieweb.plasteurope.com/>.

3 Secondary plastics markets in the plasticker price index

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The plasticker internet platform, see <http://plasticker.de>, publishes quotes on an hourly basis. The present market report indicates the final monthly prices. It is only possible to represent the preliminary prices for the month of the report, in this case December 2024; they will not become definitive until early January 2025. The two quotes stated for December 2025 below indicate only an interim situation, see the left-hand column in Table 3 and Table 4.

3.1 plasticker: Standard plastics

The November price index reveals a lower demand for plastic than in the previous month. In November 2024, standard plastics were quoted at an average price of 563 €/t and thus 28 €/t lower than in the previous month (591 €/t), see Tab. 3. The average price for November 2024 (563 €/t) was 178 €/t below that of the previous year (741 €/t). There were significant price changes of greater than ±40 €/t for: HDPE regranulates +80 €/t, LDPE bale goods +110 €/t, PP regrind -50 €/t, PS regrind -70 €/t, PS regranulates -70 €/t and PVC_u regrind -100 €/t. Those price changes for which supply figures were too low (*) for statistical significance are not included here.

The likely average price in December 2024 (551 €/t) is thus 12 €/t lower than in the previous month (563 €/t), see Tab. 3. The price index of 17.12.2024 shows lower demand in comparison to the previous month.

Table 3: Standard plastics price according to plasticker; listed in €/t.

	December ⁶ 24	Nov. 24	Oct. 24	Sept. 24	Aug. 24	Nov. 23
HDPE regrind ¹	540	580	560	540	540	720
HDPE regranulates ⁵	850	930	850	890	940	960
LDPE bale goods ²	470*	540*	430	300*	460*	310
LDPE regrind ¹	480*	420*	510*	440*	440*	520*
LDPE regranulates ⁵	620	760	760	780	820	940
PP bale goods ³	210*	210	210	140*	190	380
PP regrind ¹	530	490	540	540	550	840
PP regranulates ⁵	920	880	920	950	950	1090
PS regrind ⁴	620*	620	690	710	630*	870*
PS regranulates ⁵	900	800	870	970	1000	1220
PVC_P regrind ¹	460*	500*	650*	770*	690*	860*
PVC_U regrind ¹	430*	470*	570	480	530*	730*
PET bale goods	270*	240*	270*	220*	170*	400
PET regrind mixed colours	410*	440	450	350*	400*	550
Average Price	(551)	563	591	577	594	741

*: Supply figure too low to attain statistical significance; ¹: equivalent to the grade "post-industrial mixed colours"; ²: equivalent to K49; ³: equivalent to K59; ⁴: equivalent to "standard, mixed colours"; ⁵: equivalent to the grade "regranulates, black"; ⁶: preview (may be amended by additional quotes)

3.2 plasticker: Technical plastics

For November, there was an average price of 1,463 €/t, which was only 9 €/t lower than that of the previous month (1,472 €/t), see Table 4. The average price for November 2024 (1,463 €/t) was 165 €/t below that of the previous year (1,628 €/t).

There were significant price changes of greater than ±70 €/t for: PC regranulates -90 €/t, PBT regranulates +80 €/t, PA 6 regranulates +210 €/t, PA 6.6 regranulates +100 €/t, POM regrind -140 €/t. Pleasingly, the November price index shows just adequate demand.

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The probable average price in December 2024 (1,461 €/t) is thus almost identical to that of the previous month (1,463 €/t). The price index of 17.12.2024 shows just about adequate demand in comparison to the previous month.

Table 4: Technical plastics price according to plasticker; listed in €/t.

	December ⁶ 24	Nov. 24	Oct. 24	Sept. 24	Aug. 24	Nov. 23
ABS regrind	610	620	660	670	640	670
ABS regranulates ⁵	1300	1250	1280	1380	1380	1350
PC regrind	990	900	970	1050	1010	1210
PC regranulates ⁵	2560	2470	2560	2340	2420	2190
PBT regrind	600*	580	630	640	710	660*
PBT regranulates	1740	2020	1940	2180	2360	2450
PA 6 regrind	760	890	880	780	900	970
PA 6 regranulates ⁵	2310	2350	2140	2210	2380	2340
PA 6.6 regrind	1060	1100	1160	1000	980	1130
PA 6.6 regranulates ⁵	2550	2570	2470	2690	2940	3130
POM regrind	860*	610*	750	750*	800*	690
POM regranulates ⁵	2190	2200	2220	2560	2590	2740
Average Price	(1461)	1463	1472	1521	1593	1628

*: Supply figure too low to attain statistical significance; ⁵: equivalent to the grade "regranulates, black"; ⁶: preview (may be amended by additional quotes)

4 Secondary plastics markets

Standstill in plastics recycling. Plastics recycling is under enormous pressure, which leads to short-time working, take-overs and closures. Everyone should be aware that the plastics recyclers determine the prices and grades of the input - buyer's market. And this means that the published prices for plastic waste are just a guide. The specific contracts concluded may deviate greatly from the published quotes.

As in previous years, there will be a long Christmas break this year, too. For plastics recycling, 2024 was an *annus horribilis*. And this is reflected in the EUWID headline "Waste Plastics: Bad Year for Recyclers coming to an End", see RE 50, 2024, p. 24.

4.1 Recycling standard plastics

The November quotes in EUWID show price falls for all grade of PE and PP. However, the quotes for PS and PVC remain unchanged. The average price fall for PE production wastes is 22 €/t. And for PP production wastes, the average price falls are 25 €/t. For PE wastes, i.e., PE post user quotes, the average price falls are 19 €/t.

This difficult situation is also reflected in plasticker, which reported low demand and average price falls of 28 €/t for November.

PIE – Plastic Information Europe, regranulates: In November 2024, all of the regranulates of standard plastics were quoted lower in comparison to the previous month. The average price falls are in the range of 5 €/t to 20 €/t. The demand for standards plastics is low, see <https://piweb.plasteurope.com/>.

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4.2 Recycling technical plastics

plasticker: For November, there was an average price of 1,463 €/t, which was only 9 €/t lower than that of the previous month (1,472 €/t). The November price index shows just about adequate demand for plastic. Or, to put it another way, there is now consistent demand, but at a low level.

PIE – Plastic Information Europe, regranulates: In November 2024, all regranulates were quoted lower again. The premium grades of regranulates quoted here recorded average price falls of 10 €/t to 30 €/t, see <https://pieweb.plasteurope.com/>.

4.3 PET recycling

PET recycling largely held its own in 2024. Although the situation for recyclers was also difficult here, realistic prices were achieved for the regrinds (flakes) and regranulates. Although the demand for recycled PET (rPET) was much lower than necessary, it was still adequate.

And the prospects for 2025 should be good to very good across Germany and Europe. However, attention must be paid to whether the requirement of the use of 25 % recyclates in PET beverage bottles really can be met. Thank goodness very different methods are being developed that can prove the recyclate levels. Moreover, the use of rPET can be determined using back-calculation models.

The PET markets in November: PET recycling is continuing to pick up speed. November has proved to be relatively stable. The volume of used PET bottles is adequate. In November 2024, the relevant price changes for used PET single-use deposit bottles are: PET transparent -5 €/t, PET mixed -10 €/t and PET coloured -15 €/t, see EUWID.

For virgin grade, in this case granulates, the average value in PIE – Plastic Information Europe is 1,110 €/t. Regranulates are valued at 1,550 €/t in PIE – Plastic Information Europe. And clear, food-safe flakes are quoted at an average 1,265 €/t in PIE – Plastic Information Europe.

Reporting on PET markets is of central importance in EUWID and PIE – Plastic Information Europe. Detailed monthly reports on the PET prices for virgin grade, and for used beverage bottles and market assessments can be found in EUWID and PIE - Plastics Information Europe.

5 Explanation on the price quotes

A detailed discussion with information of price indices for virgin grades and waste plastics as well as precursor products can be found in EUWID Recycling and Disposal see www.euwid.de. EUWID: No guarantee for any of the prices here; prices ex station. As a rule, the prices quoted refer to quantities in excess of 20 tons.

The quotes for secondary prices, which are updated on an hourly basis, can be calculated using the price lists that are derived from the quotations published in the raw material exchange plasticker, see www.plasticker.de. The prices listed in this index are quoted without reservation - as the majority of the quotes submitted are not necessarily equivalent to the sales prices. Plasticker offers the quality grades regrind and regranulates both as virgin materials and as secondary goods. The term 'bale goods' refers to waste plastics only. Furthermore, plasticker does not distinguish between the following grades: transparent, mixed colours or colour-separated. Therefore, the information provided by plasticker may indicate different market behaviour than the prices quoted by EUWID

A detailed discussion with information of price indices for virgin grades and waste plastics as well as precursor products can be found in PIE – Plastics Information Europe, see www.kiweb.de. For virgin grades, the indices for standard plastics (Plastixx ST) and technical plastics (Plastixx TT) provide a

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good overview of the price trends. Pieweb quotes the monthly regranulates prices for standard plastics and technical plastics in the secondary markets. For secondary plastics, there are also details on PET, in this case flakes (flakes transparent, flakes mixed colours) as well as transparent regranulates.

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